

Remarks

Claims 1-22 were pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, the applicants have amended claims 1 and 12 and have canceled claims 17-22. Further, the applicants have amended the Cross-Reference Section to a Related Application in order to correct a typographical error. No new subject matter has been added by these amendments. Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the subject application including, for example, page 6, lines 3-10 and pages 9-11 and the associated Figures. In addition, the specification has been amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Accordingly, claims 1-16 are supported by the specification and are now before the Examiner for consideration.

The amendments set forth herein should not be interpreted to indicate that the applicants have agreed with, or acquiesced to, the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action. The amendments to the claims have been made in an effort to lend greater clarity to the claimed subject matter and to expedite prosecution by focusing the claims on the subject matter indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Favorable consideration of the claims now presented, in view of the remarks and amendment set forth herein, is earnestly solicited.

Initially, the applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Please note that the claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions.

Also, as stated above, the applicants have amended the subject specification to correct typographical errors in the cross-reference section. Further, the applicants are submitting herewith an Application Data Sheet to correct the typographical error in the priority serial number wherein two numbers were reversed.

Claims 1-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. By this Amendment, the applicants have amended claims 1 and 12 to address the issues raised by the Examiner. In view of the amendments to the claims, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 1 and 12 have been provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 8 of copending Application No.

10/719,914. The applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection as the applicants believe that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance and Application No. 10/719,914 is currently still pending. Please note that although the subject application and Application No. 10/719,914 were filed on the same date, Application No. 10/719,914 claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/393,445, filed July 3, 2002 and U.S. Patent Application No. 10/613,963, filed July 3, 2003. In contrast the subject application claims the benefit of earlier applications. Specifically, the subject application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional application No. 60/376,853, filed April 30, 2002, and U.S. patent application Serial No. 10/426,423, filed April 30, 2003. Thus, in accordance with MPEP §804 (I)(B)(1), the current provisional double patenting rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 17-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by van Lunteren (U.S. Patent No. 6,611,832). Please note that claims 17-20 have been canceled herein, thereby rendering moot this ground for rejection.

Claim 21 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over van Lunteren and further in view of Rochberger (U.S. Patent No. 6,396,842). Please note that claim 21 has been canceled herein, thereby rendering moot this ground for rejection.

Claim 22 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over van Lunteren as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Melchior (U.S. Patent No. 6,353,873). Please note that claim 22 has been canceled herein, thereby rendering moot this ground for rejection.

In view of the foregoing remarks and the amendment above, the applicants believe that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-0065.

The applicants also invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Application Data Sheet (ADS)